

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 Sub B¹ 1. A system for distributing content to a client computer, comprising:
2 a server comprising a content object;
3 a first content cache at a first address, wherein the first content cache
4 comprises a first copy of the content object;
5 a second content cache at a second address, wherein the second content
6 cache comprises a second copy of the content object; and
7 a preference list originating from the client computer, wherein the
8 preference list comprises at least one of the first address and the second address.
- 1 2. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 1, further comprising a routing mechanism that maps one of the content object,
3 the first copy and the second copy to the client computer.
- 1 3. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 1, further comprising a directory that maps one of the content object, the first
3 copy and the second copy to the client computer.
- 1 Sub B² 4. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 3, wherein the server periodically delivers a catalog of content objects to the
3 directory.
- 1 5. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 3, wherein the directory is affected by the preference list.
- 1 6. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 1, wherein:
3 the content object comprises a first portion and a second portion;
4 the first portion is stored on the first content cache and not on the second
5 content cache; and
6 the second portion is stored on the second content cache and not on the
7 first content cache.
- 1 7. A system for distributing content to a client computer, comprising:
2 a content object;

3 a first content cache at a first address, wherein the first content cache
4 comprises a first copy of the content object;
5 a second content cache at a second address, wherein the second content
6 cache comprises a second copy of the content object; and
7 a directory that maps one of the first copy and the second copy to the client
8 computer.

1 8. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 7, further comprising a preference list originating from the client computer,
3 wherein the preference list comprises at least one of the first address and the second
4 address.

1 9. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 8, wherein the directory is affected by the preference list.

1 10. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 7, further comprising a routing mechanism that maps one of the content object, a
3 first copy and a second copy to the client computer.

1 11. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 7, further comprising a server that comprises the content object.

1 12. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 11, wherein the server periodically delivers catalog information to the directory.

1 13. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 11, wherein:

3 the content object comprises a first portion and a second portion;
4 the first portion is stored on the first content cache and not on the second
5 content cache; and

6 the second portion is stored on the second content cache and not on the
7 first content cache.

1 14. A system for distributing content to a client computer, comprising:
2 a content object comprising a portion;

3 a first content cache at a first address, wherein the first content cache
4 comprises a first copy of the portion;
5 a second content cache at a second address, wherein the second content
6 cache comprises a second copy of the portion; and
7 a routing mechanism that maps one of the portion, the first copy and the
8 second copy to the client computer.

1 15. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 14, further comprising a preference list originating from the client computer,
3 wherein the preference list comprises at least one of the first address and the second
4 address.

1 16. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 15, wherein the directory is affected by the preference list.

1 17. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 14, further comprising a server that comprises the content object.

1 18. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 17, wherein the server periodically delivers a catalog of content objects on the
3 server to the directory.

1 19. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 16, wherein:

3 the content object comprises a first fragment and a second fragment;
4 the first fragment is stored on the first content cache and not on the second
5 content cache; and

6 the second fragment is stored on the second content cache and not on the
7 first content cache.

1 20. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 14, wherein the routing mechanism includes a directory.